REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the present application. By virtue of this response, claims 1 and 8 have been amended and new claims 16-17 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-17 are currently under consideration. Amendment and cancellation of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented.

The Examiner is thanked for her assistance in the teleconference with Attorney for Applicants, Hugh Matsubayashi, on July 14, 2004. During the teleconference, the Kammersqard patent (U.S. Pat. No. 5,505,533) and the Scholder patent (U.S. Pat. No. 5,822,182) were discussed.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kammersquard et al. (5505533). Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection.

As discussed with the Examiner in the teleconference, the Kammersqard reference fails to disclose a "front panel providing access to the I/O connectors including the one or more data transmission ports and to all components requiring intermittent access provided for the computer", as recited in amended claim 1.

In contrast, the Kammersqard reference teaches as follows:

> As shown in FIGS. 2b and 17, SCSI connectors are provided in rack rear wall 13 that can be used to interconnect computer 3 with accessories located in lower bay 23 and with other external units such as a printer. AC power inlet and outlet connections are also provided along with typical serial and parallel ports and keyboard connections. In this invention, we have found it desirable to remote the standard rear wall mounted keyboard connection to front wall 11, as shown in FIG. 2a, to provide for greater ease of use. Retaining the keyboard connection at its typical rear panel position places a forward bias on the rack because of the spiral-wound keyboard cable being drawn toward the front of the unit.

> This bias causes rack 1 to roll forward on rails 49 and pull the unit out of alignment in the EIA rack. By remotely locating the keyboard connector to chassis front wall 11, the bias is eliminated and the unit will stay in place. (Col. 7, lines 32-48; emphasis added.)
>
> The same reasoning is applied to the off/on power switch. In its typical location at the rear of the computer places a strain on the user to pull the unit forward on rails 49 in order to reach behind rack 1 to turn the unit on or off. By remoting this switch to the front panel 11, this wasteful effort is eliminated and the unit is allowed to remain in its operative position. (Col. 7, lines 49-55; emphasis added.)
>
> As shown in FIGS. 5, 7 and 15, a small panel 99 is mounted within door frame 81, behind door panel 89, wherein is located the computer (and accessory) main off/on power switch and computer keyboard connector that were remoted from the rear of computer 3 as previously described. Other switches or connectors may also be located in this panel. (Col. 8, lines 26-32.)

Thus, the Kammersqard reference teaches that the keyboard connector and the off/on power switch can be moved to the front of the computer, and also mentions that "[o]ther switches or connectors may also be located in this panel" without any further discussion of the types of "switches or connectors" that may be provided. Moreover, the figures show that the rear side of the computer in the Kammersqard reference contains the majority of the connectors in the system. The Kammersqard reference fails to teach or suggest the claimed "front panel providing access to the I/O connectors including the one or more data transmission ports and to all components requiring intermittent access provided for the computer".

Applicants' specification describes in part the prior art approaches to providing connectors for computers and the deficiencies of these approaches as follows:

> [0014] A rack that is currently being widely used measures roughly 19 inches wide, 30 inches deep and 74 inches high. In at least one co-location site, these racks are lined up in rows of roughly 10-30 units with access doors on each side of a rack. Access aisles are provided on both sides of the rows. Many of the racks are filled with cumbersome computers mounted on sliders which are attached through mounting holes provided in the front and back of the rack. Regardless of the chassis

> design of the computers (or lack thereof where computers are merely built on open trays with their components uncovered) and how they are mounted to the racks, data devices included in the computer are accessed from the front. Main board I/O's, other I/O's, power cords and such items are typically accessed from the back. It is this latter design aspect which not only results in inefficiency in the amount of access space required, but also in the frequent inefficiencies associated with having to administer services to both sides of a computer. Consequently, there exists a need for computers useable in a network setting that are accessible and fully serviceable from a single side. (Emphasis added.)

Embodiments of the claimed computer can remedy the deficiencies of conventional systems by providing a front panel providing access to the I/O connectors including the one or more data transmission ports and to all components requiring intermittent access provided for the computer.

For at least the reasons described above, the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 under § 102 is unsupported by the cited reference. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and claims 2-7 and 16, which depend from claim 1.

Claim 8 recites, in part:

> a main board having I/O connectors including one or more data transmission ports mounted thereon; and
>
> a chassis comprising a front panel providing access to the I/O connectors including the one or more data transmission ports and access to each component provided for the computer selected from the group consisting of removable power supplies, removable drives, removable media drives, one or more plugs for external drives and devices, and ports for switches.

For at least the reasons given above with respect to claim 1, the Examiner's rejection of claim 8 under § 102 is unsupported by the cited reference. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 8 and claims 9-15 and 17, which depend from claim 8.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 443452000104. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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